

VSH Governing Body Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2008, 1:30 pm

Nursing Classroom

Type of meeting: Oversight

Facilitator: Michael Hartman, Commissioner of Mental Health

Note taker: Denise McCarty

Governing Body Members: Dr. William McMains; Ann Moore; Patrick Flood, (Designee for Secretary Robert Hofmann); Paul Dupre, Terry Rowe, VSH Executive Director, Dr. Thomas Simpatico, VSH Medical Director

Attendees: Jessica Oski, DMH Legal Department; Wendy Beininger, DMH Legal Department,

Discussed: Approval of Meeting Minutes

The December 17th meeting minutes were reviewed by the Governing Body, minutes were changed to reflect that Patrick Flood was the Designee for Secretary Robert Hofmann as of December 2008). No other changes were requested. Ann Moore made a motion to accept the minutes as revised. William McMains seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussed: Commissioner's Update on Governing Body Rule Change (with Michael Hartman)

Michael gave an update on the Governing Body rule changes. The Commissioner cannot delegate use of authority through a rule. This can only happen through a statute. Michael suggested the Governing body discuss what needs to be done immediately, what to do in the long term, and a name change. CMS requires that VSH either have a Governing Body or people that are legally responsible for decisions that are made at the hospital such as physician credentialing that insure that governance elements that are needed are incorporated. Michael suggested that the bylaws or something in writing explains the expectations to commissioners and members. By the next meeting, there will be clarity on the immediate structure, how it will function, and a long term solution. Discussion followed.

Discussed: Executive Director's Report (with Terry Rowe)

Terry reviewed the institutional work plan for the hospital with the Governing Body. All of the renovations are done. We have not requested a new CMS survey as yet. We have closed the Treatment Mall space indefinitely due to the CMS findings that the structural environment posed safety hazards for the patients. When CMS surveys again it will just be for the Brooks Building and will not encompass the Treatment Mall area. The appeal to the CMS Survey findings has been submitted. TR stated that Wendy Beininger did a wonderful job putting together the appeal.

Treatment Planning Process – VSH leadership is working with staff to improve the treatment planning process.

Electronic Health Record (EHR) – There has been a budget adjustment for the EHR. It is too early to determine if the money will remain in the budget but there appears to be support within the Governor’s office for it and the federal stimulus plan has included money for electronic medical records.

Medical Director – Dr. Simpatico will be stepping down in his role as medical director at VSH effective in June. Dr. Jay Batra is currently the associate medical director until he assumes full-time Medical Director responsibilities in June.

Quality Assurance Report – No report was given today.

SAMSHA Visit – VSH has a 3 year grant to help reduce rates of emergency procedures and improve alternative methods to restraints. SAMSHA surveyors were here last week and they evaluated our progress towards SAMSHA grant expectations.

(End of Executive Director’s Report)

Medical Director’s Report (Dr. Thomas Simpatico)

Dr. Simpatico acknowledged that we have the highest level of female borderline patients over the last few weeks that we’ve ever seen.

Dr. Batra will be assuming the role as the full time medical director at VSH as on June. He is very well liked by colleagues and patients.

Tom will be involved in the Veteran’s Jail Diversion Grant. He will be going to Washington, DC next week to participate in the Fred Friendly Seminar. This will be a PBS special documentary about serious mental illness.

(End Medical Director’s Report)

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm. The next meeting will be on February 18th at 1:30 pm in the Nursing Classroom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise McCarty
Minute Taker